REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and consideration in view of the amendments above and the arguments set forth fully below. Prior to this Office Action, Claims 1-27 were pending in this application. Within the Office Action, Claims 1-27 are rejected. By the above amendments, Claims 1, 3, 7-10, 14-16, 20, 22, and 27 are amended. Claims 2 and 21 are canceled. Thus, Claims 1, 3-20, and 22-27 are currently pending in this application.

Objections to the Specification

Within the Office Action, the specification is objected to. However, a specific objection is not cited. The Applicant contends that the present specification includes the required content. The Applicant requests clarification as to the nature of this objection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,449,344 issued to Goldfinger et al. (hereafter "Goldfinger"). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Goldfinger teaches a communications system for facilitating locating a user who is connected to a communications network. The user utilizes the communication network to establish point-to-point communications with another user. A first user 18 accesses a communications network 14 via a terminal 12. Once user 18 is connected to the network 14, a connection notification apparatus 30 notifies a connection monitor 22 that user 18 is connected to network 14. The connection notification apparatus 30 is included in the terminal 12, and the connection monitor 22 is part of a server 20, the server 20 also connected to the network 14. An information apparatus manager 28 is also included within the server 20 and maintains a list of all users currently connected, also referred to as on-line, to the network 14. The user 18 also provides a list of sought users which the user 18 is interested in communicating with to the information apparatus manager 28. The information apparatus manager 28 determines if any of the sought users are currently connected to the network 14. If a sought user is connected, the information apparatus manager 28 causes an annunciator 24 to transmit an annunciation to user 18. The annunciator 24 is also included within the server 20. The annunciation is then sent to the user 18. In other words, the server 20, which includes the information apparatus manager 28 and the annunciator 24, generates the annunciation and sends the annunciation to the user.

Goldfinger does not teach that the server 20 receives a message intended for the user 18, and then stores the message for retrieval by the user 18.

The present invention is directed to an apparatus for and a method of providing message notification for a user through an instant messaging service. A message notification application 10 is registered to an instant messaging service 14 through an IP Network 16 such as the Internet or a private intranet. A user who is already signed up for the instant messaging service 14 indicates to the message notification application 10 that the user would like to be notified when new messages arrive. When a number of users utilizing various instant messaging services 14 are signed up for the message notification application 10, the message notification application 10 can be registered with multiple instant messaging services 14 to enable it to talk with users regardless of the instant messaging service 14 being utilized. In this manner, notification is standardized to all end user points and devices that are compatible with a specific instant messaging service 14. The message notification application 10 itself does not need to be aware of the specifics of these end user points because it merely needs to be instructed how to interact with the instant messaging service 14 framework.

When a new message is received, such as by a voice messaging or unified messaging server 12, the message notification application 10 originates an instant message notification and sends the instant message notification to the instant messaging service 14 for delivery to the user. The instant messaging service 14 then transmits the instant message notification to the end user. The message notification application 10 does not directly transmit the instant message notification to the end user. In this manner, the message notification application 10 is not burdened with the added complexity of performing instant messaging services.

Within the Office Action, it is stated that Goldfinger teaches notifying that the user 18 is connected to the system 10 and that this is analogous to the claimed limitation of registering a message notification to at least one instant messaging service. This implies that the connection notification apparatus 30 of Goldfinger is analogous to the message notification application 10 of the present invention. However, it is also stated within the Office Action that Goldfinger teaches a server 20 containing a list of connected users which updates the lists of sought users predefined by users connected to the system 10 and that this is analogous to the claimed limitation of signing a user onto the message notification application 10 by adding the user to a buddy list of the message notification application 10. This implies that the information management apparatus 28 of Goldfinger is analogous to the message notification application 10 of the present invention, which is in conflict with the previous implication that the connection notification apparatus 30 of

Goldfinger is analogous to the message notification application 10 of the present invention. Therefore, Goldfinger does not teach a message notification application which is registered with an instant messaging service, and a message notification application that maintains buddy lists of users accessing instant messaging services.

Further, the independent Claims 1, 8, 14, 20, and 27 are amended to include sending an instant messaging notification from the message notification application via the one instant messaging service, which the user is currently accessing, to the user. Goldfinger does not teach sending an instant messaging notification from a message notification application to a user via an instant messaging service currently being accessed by the user.

The amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a method of providing message notification for a user. The method includes <u>coupling a message notification application to a server, wherein the server stores messages for the user,</u> registering the message notification application to at least one instant messaging service, accessing one of the at least one instant messaging service by the user, signing the user onto the message notification application by <u>adding the user to a buddy list of the message notification application thereby associating the user to the one instant messaging service which the user is currently accessing,</u> and <u>sending an instant message notification from the message notification application via the one instant messaging service</u> to the user when a message arrives on the server for the user. As discussed above, Goldfinger does not teach a server that receives a message intended for a user, and then stores the message for retrieval by the user. Further, Goldfinger does not teach a message notification application which is registered with an instant messaging service, and a message notification application that maintains buddy lists of users accessing instant messaging services. Still further, Goldfinger does not teach sending an instant messaging notification from a message notification application to a user via an instant messaging service currently being accessed by the user. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over Goldfinger.

Claims 3-7 are dependent on independent Claim 1. As stated above, Claim 1 is allowable over the teaching of Goldfinger. Accordingly, Claims 3-7 are also in allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The amended independent Claim 8 is directed to an apparatus for providing message notification and allowing a user to instantly review new messages. The apparatus comprises at least one instant messaging service, <u>a message notification application registered to the at least one instant messaging service, wherein the message notification application includes a buddy list onto which the user is added, thereby associating the user to one of the at least one instant</u>

message service that the user is currently using, a server for storing messages and providing a medium for the message notification application to operate, and an internet appliance to access the server and receive an instant message notification from the message notification application via the one instant messaging service, the instant message notification indicates that a new message is stored on the server for the user. As discussed above, Goldfinger does not teach a server that receives a message intended for a user, and then stores the message for retrieval by the user. Further, Goldfinger does not teach a message notification application which is registered with an instant messaging service, and a message notification application that maintains buddy lists of users accessing instant messaging services. Still further, Goldfinger does not teach sending an instant messaging notification from a message notification application to a user via an instant messaging service currently being accessed by the user. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 8 is allowable over Goldfinger.

Claims 9-13 are dependent on independent Claim 8. As stated above, Claim 8 is allowable over the teaching of Goldfinger. Accordingly, Claims 9-13 are also in allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The amended independent Claim 14 is directed to a message notification system that allows the user to instantly review new messages. The message notification system comprises at least one instant messaging service, a message notification application registered to the at least one instant messaging service, wherein the message notification application includes a buddy list onto which the user is added, thereby associating the user to one of the at least one instant message service that the user is currently using, a server for storing messages and providing a medium for the message notification application to operate, and an internet appliance to access the server and receive an instant message notification from the message notification application via the one instant messaging service, the instant message notification indicates that a new message is stored on the server for the user. As discussed above, Goldfinger does not teach a server that receives a message intended for a user, and then stores the message for retrieval by the user. Further, Goldfinger does not teach a message notification application which is registered with an instant messaging service, and a message notification application that maintains buddy lists of users accessing instant messaging services. Still further, Goldfinger does not teach sending an instant messaging notification from a message notification application to a user via an instant messaging service currently being accessed by the user. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 14 is allowable over Goldfinger.

Claims 15-19 are dependent on independent Claim 14. As stated above, Claim 14 is allowable over the teaching of Goldfinger. Accordingly, Claims 15-19 are also in allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The amended independent Claim 20 is directed to a message notification system for a user. The message notification system comprises <u>means for coupling a message notification application to a server, wherein the server stores messages for the user</u>, means for registering a the message notification application to at least one instant messaging service, means for accessing one of the at least one instant messaging service by the user, means for signing a <u>the</u> user onto the message notification application by <u>adding the user to a buddy list of the message notification application thereby associating the user to the one instant messaging service which the user is currently accessing</u>, and <u>means for sending an instant message notification from the message notification application via the one instant messaging service</u> to the user when a message arrives on the server for the user. As discussed above, Goldfinger does not teach a server that receives a message intended for a user, and then stores the message for retrieval by the user. Further, Goldfinger does not teach a message notification application which is registered with an instant messaging service, and a message notification application that maintains buddy lists of users accessing instant messaging services. Still further, Goldfinger does not teach sending an instant messaging notification from a message notification application to a user via an instant messaging service currently being accessed by the user. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 20 is allowable over Goldfinger.

Claims 21-26 are dependent on independent Claim 20. As stated above, Claim 20 is allowable over the teaching of Goldfinger. Accordingly, Claims 21-26 are also in allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.
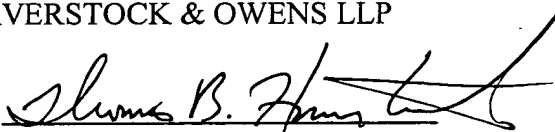
The amended independent Claim 27 is directed to a method of providing a voice messaging notification application for a user in an instant messaging system. The method comprises the steps of <u>coupling a message notification application to a server, wherein the server stores messages for the user,</u> registering the message notification application to at least one instant messaging service, accessing one of the at least one instant messaging services by the user, <u>adding the user to a buddy list of the message notification application, wherein the buddy list is associated with of the one instant messaging service,</u> <u>sending an instant message notification to the user from the message notification application via the one instant messaging service</u> when a message arrives on the server for the user, and allowing the user access to a server by one of using an internet appliance and using a telephone. As discussed above, Goldfinger

does not teach a server that receives a message intended for a user, and then stores the message for retrieval by the user. Further, Goldfinger does not teach a message notification application which is registered with an instant messaging service, and a message notification application that maintains buddy lists of users accessing instant messaging services. Still further, Goldfinger does not teach sending an instant messaging notification from a message notification application to a user via an instant messaging service currently being accessed by the user. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 27 is allowable over Goldfinger.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: 3 -26 -04

By: _____

Thomas B. Haverstock
Reg. No.: 32,571
Attorney for Applicant